

**South Dakota Department of Social Services
Division of Child Care Services
Child Care and Development Fund
Two-Year State Plan Executive Summary**

October 1, 2007 - September 30, 2009

- SD Public Hearing Date: June 5, 2007 – 7-9 p.m.;
- DDN Sites: Aberdeen, Brookings, Mitchell, Pierre, Sioux Falls, Spearfish, Vermillion and Watertown;
- Plan will be posted on DSS web site by May 11, 2007 - <http://dss.sd.gov/childcare/>
- Comments may be received until June 19, 2007 and can be submitted in writing to:
Pat Monson – Child Care Services – 700 Governors Drive – Pierre, 57501

The Department of Social Services, Office of Child Care Services will:

1. Assist families who are receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and non-TANF low-income families with child care costs; determining eligibility and processing payments.
2. Improve availability and quality of child care; by the development of a statewide training delivery system, out-of-school-time programs, assistance in meeting health and safety requirements, technical assistance, community development, consumer education, and advocacy.
3. Monitor and enforce licensing and registration of child care providers as required by state law.
4. Ensure, to the greatest degree possible, parental choice in decisions regarding childcare, and permit parents to choose from a broad range of child care providers which include the following: Child care centers, group family child care, and family child care; sectarian organizations; and relative, informal care, and in-home providers.
5. Work with parents toward selecting quality child care.
6. Establish and maintain childcare provider records, which are accessible to the public.

I. Direct Child Care Subsidy

The purpose of the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) is to increase the availability, affordability and quality of child care in each state. States must use at least 70% of the total amount of mandatory funds to provide child care assistance to welfare recipients, to those in work programs and attempting to leave welfare, and those at-risk of going on welfare.

- Market Rate Survey (MRS) is complete and results will be included in the state plan.
- Exploration of a weekly rate is in process but will not be completed by the time of the plan. Hourly rates will continue as established by county.
- For Family Child Care, Group Family Child Care and Child Care Centers rates are now established for under age 3, age 3-6 and over age 6. Previously rates were set for under age 3 and over age 3.
- A special rate for school-age care has been established. These rates are specific to licensed “stand-alone” programs.
- Special TANF Child Care reimbursement program will become automated so providers do not have to bill by two processes. Providers will be reimbursed at the weekly rate set at the 75th percentile as a result of the MRS. This is only for TANF recipients. Providers will be asked to sign agreements in order to participate in this special program. For more information contact Amy Gorham at Child Care Services.
- The three-hour training requirement for unregulated providers is being dropped because of the difficulty in tracking and the high turnover of these provider types. Training continues to be encouraged and resources are made available whenever possible.
- TB test requirements are dropped for regulated and unregulated child care providers as per recommendation by Center for Disease Control.
- Services for children with special needs continues to be a priority. A higher rate of reimbursement is allowed as well as a special rate for children with advanced special needs. Contact Amy Gorham at CCS for additional information.
- Increase collaborations and outreach in high need areas including tribal.
- Continue to encourage child care providers to utilize new on-line billing feature.
- Analyze and implement methods to reduce improper payments to child care providers in accordance with Federal recommendations effective October 2008.

II. Quality Improvement Activities

Under the CCDF, four percent (4%) of the state allocation must be reserved for activities designed to improve the quality of child care; increase the availability of early childhood development programs and before & after school care services; and consumer education. Due to limitations placed on these funds by federal regulations, the Department of Social Services has prioritized these funds to be used in the following areas:

- ◆ Out-of-School-Time Program technical assistance and support
- ◆ Monitoring and compliance with licensing and regulatory requirements
- ◆ Child Care Capacity building efforts in target communities
- ◆ Training & Technical Assistance (Early Childhood Enrichment Programs)

Updated May 2007

- ◆ Development and support of various certificates and credentials related to early childhood and school-age care
- ◆ Support of statewide associations
- ◆ Pathways Project for Professional Development
- ◆ Continuous Quality Improvement Program Pilot
- ◆ Continuous Health & Safety Funding
- ◆ Family Child Care Mentor Program
- ◆ Child Care Inclusion activities to support children with special needs
- ◆ Child Care Infant-Toddler Training (Bush Foundation support)
- ◆ Consumer Education
- ◆ Responsive Parenting for parents of children age birth to three
- ◆ Community/Facility Development
- ◆ Head Start/Child Care Partnerships
- ◆ Early Learning Guidelines, dissemination, training and embedding in the professional development system
- ◆ Reach Out & Read
- ◆ Public-Private Partnerships
- ◆ Consultation with appropriate agencies
- ◆ Coordination with other Federal, State, local tribal and private agencies providing child care and early childhood development services.

III. Funding Sources

Child Care & Development Fund Allocations Federal Fiscal Year 2007

Mandatory	State MOE*	Matching	State Share	Discretionary	Total
\$1,710,801	\$802,914	\$4,234,374	\$2,495,400	\$5,412,252*	\$14,655,741

*Discretionary Earmarked Funds Distribution

1. School-Age and R&R	\$ 47,014
2. Quality and Expansion	\$457,847
3. Infant/Toddler	<u>\$265,154</u>
TOTAL	\$770,015

Maintenance of Effort (MOE) State expenditures above the MOE level are matched based on the Federal FMAP rate.

IV. Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Religion

Child Care providers, other than relative child care providers that receive direct assistance through grants or contracts shall not discriminate in enrollment against any child on the basis of religion. If eighty percent (80%) of the operating budget of any provider is derived from direct and indirect assistance under the Block Grant and from other Federal and State funds, no further Block Grant funds will be paid to the provider unless all grants or contracts or the employment and admission policies of the provider specifically provide that it will not discriminate, on the basis of religion, in admissions or employment.